

# The Washington State Parcel and Forestland Database

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*A Statewide Parcel Geographic Information System for Government & Research*

## Goals

The short-term goals of the Washington State Parcel Database project are to provide a single, statewide, regularly updated, well documented GIS parcel data resource for government and to educate government about the use and value of GIS parcel data. The Washington State Forestland Database project seeks to map and describe forestland ownership in the state and how it is changing, and to quantify physical and political features common to forested parcels.

## The Washington State Parcel Database

The Washington State Parcel Database is housed at the University of Washington's College of Forest Resources (CFR), maintained by staff of the Rural Technology Initiative (RTI). RTI Staff have developed relationships with Washington's thirty-nine counties and land management agencies to collect and normalize their parcel GIS data into a single dataset in a common statewide format. Based on a survey of over 160 government users this common format is designed to meet the needs of as many users as possible and includes information on land ownership, land use, taxable and market values, site addresses, and legal descriptions.

Each August, staff at the Rural Technology Initiative collects GIS parcel data from around the state. The data is then normalized through a series of data transformations into a common statewide format and extensively documented. The Statewide Parcel Database is then made available for use by members of the Parcels Working Group which is currently made up of local, state and federal agencies.

## The Washington State Forestland Database

Using the Statewide Parcel Database as a foundation, staff will also construct the Washington State Forestland Database. By generating forest land cover from satellite imagery and using land use information and assessed land values from the database, forested lands can be identified and categorized into ownership categories such as public, conservation, tribal, industrial and other private. In addition, the Forestland Database will contain information about relevant physical and political features such as parcel, contiguous tract, owner and forest acres, regulatory buffer acres, slope information, stream and road density/length and a conversion

potential metric calculated as the difference between current use and highest-and-best use land values.

The Forestland Database will be updated annually (in tandem with the Statewide Parcel Database) with land cover information generated every other year. The Forestland Database will enable a new understanding of forestland change in Washington State by quantifying conversion, trends in fragmentation, shifting ownership (i.e. industrial > REIT > family forest), generalized forest land cover change and various other metrics.

## Products

The Washington State Parcel Database and the Forestland Database will be produced each year approximately six months apart (February and July). Every other spring a coarse forest land cover assessment will be done to identify forested and non-forested areas of the state using satellite imagery.

## Budget

<b>Washington State Parcel Database (2 Year Budget)</b> July1, 2009 - June 30, 2011	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Salaries and Wages (FY `09: 2.85 FTE / FY `10: 2.55 FTE)	<b>\$376,150</b>
Contract Personal Services	<b>\$ -</b>
Other Contractual Services	<b>\$ 2,400</b>
Travel	<b>\$ 12,000</b>
Supplies and Materials	<b>\$ 25,816</b>
Equipment	<b>\$ 20,000</b>
Retirement and Benefits	<b>\$109,083</b>
Student Aid	<b>\$ -</b>
Indirect	<b>\$136,616</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$682,065</b>